



*Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services*

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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District 1— Robert Levy  
District 3— Kristen O’Kane  
District 5— Blake Balajadia  
District 7— Erik Fong, Vice Chair  
District 9— Rudy Flores  
Citywide— Virginia Thomas

Sergio Jimenez, Chair —District 2  
Barinder Ahluwalia—District 4  
Karl Sveinsson—District 6  
Francis Nguyen—District 8  
Brian Quint—District 10

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### **Draft Minutes** **Wednesday, April 1, 2014** **5:30 p.m.**

#### **I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day**

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- Chair Jimenez called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm
- Commissioner Nguyen absent

#### **II. Public Comment**

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(Members of the Public are invited to speak on any item that does not appear on today’s Agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission - Speakers are limited to 2 minutes).

- Kirk Vartan spoke about above ground, platform based, park space and 6 acre site to be developed in Santa Clara, adjacent to San Jose.
- Larry Ames informed the Commission the EIR is complete for the Willow Glen Trestle and provided his assessment and comments.
- Paul Davis spoke about Butcher Dog Park

#### **III. Announcements**

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- No Announcements

#### **IV. Consent Calendar**

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- A. Approve the Minutes of March 4, 2015
- B. Approve the Attendance Report
- C. Receive and File Correspondence to Commission
- D. Development Project Updates

Commissioner Levy requested to pull item IV. D

**Motion to Approve items A, B and C of the Consent Calendar:**

**M:** Levy     **S:** Balajadia

( 10 - 0 ) Commissioner Nguyen absent

D. Development Project Updates

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Levy:

- Questioned the number of acres of parkland being provided on the listed development units, pointing out the numbers are much lower than what is expected.
- Santana Row West project should be 7.8 acres of parkland, staff recommended 3 acres and the developer offered 1 acre.
- Recommended the Commission write a letter in support of staff's acreage recommendation.

Council Liaison Dexter:

- Inquired about adding monetary information to the report.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Referenced the draft EIR showing a 1 acre park and inquired where a 3 acre park would go. Staff member David McCormick provided additional background.

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Kirk Vartan spoke to long term planning for the area.

**Motion to Request the Chair write a letter to support Staff's acreage recommendation:**

**M:** Levy     **S:** Fong

( 10 - 0 ) Commissioner Nguyen absent

**V. Reports**

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A. **Chair; None**

B. **Director;** Steve Hammack reported on the following:

- Greater & Greener 2015 Conference

C. **Council and Commission**

1. **Council Liaison;** Michele Dexter – reported on the following:

- Adopt a Park adoption information by Council district

2. **Senior Citizens Commission;** no member present

3. **Youth Commission;** no member present

D. **Department Staff**

1. **Senior Services Updates;** Mary O'Meara, Recreation Superintendent & Tracy Gott, Recreation Supervisor, highlighted the following:

- 2013-14 Accomplishments
- Partnerships
- Mobility Management (transportation)
- Senior Nutrition Program
- "Age-Friendly" Approach/ Collaboration with the County
- 2015 schedule of events

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Heather Lerner mentioned the Senior Safari Walkabout program offered at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Council Liaison Dexter:

- Inquired about the change from “Seniors” to “Active Adult,” and Mary confirmed the change to Active/Older Adult.
- Asked about outsourcing vendors for classes – Tracy mentioned most of the active adult programs are typically lead by city staff.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Inquired about food preparation specific to the district. Tracy provided background information and that staff takes feedback and adjusts based on the cultural makeup/needs of the area.

Thomas:

- Inquired about housing. Mary shared a few County offered programs.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked about the increase in mobility. Tracy referenced an increase in budget, the last participation numbers were captured early on in the program and transportation utilization is growing via word of mouth.
- Inquired about bus pass usage and Tracy defined the requirements to obtain a bus pass.

## **VI. New & Returning Business**

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A. **Budget Update;** Avi Yotam, Administrative Officer, highlighted the following:

- Mayor’s March Budget Message including:
  - St. James Activation
  - San Jose Works & San Jose Learns
- May 6<sup>th</sup> is the start of the Budget Study Sessions

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Levy:

- Inquired about the Ranger program. Avi and Steve expressed there is an interest in expanding the program.
- Asked about the infrastructure backlog and Steve confirmed nothing additional is being allocated.

Chair Jimenez:

- Inquired about specific department needs for the budget. Steve spoke to departmental deficiencies.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Inquired about high-rise incentive fee updates. Steve informed the Commission that talks have been suspended.
- Suggested writing a letter requesting a budgetary allocation for the restoration of park maintenance.

Thomas:

- Expressed her desire to see improvement in park maintenance, referencing performed park assessment surveys. She also suggested volunteer’s involvement in reporting items in their parks that are in need attention.

Flores:

- Spoke to turf reduction potentially having an impact and needing additional information.

Chair Jimenez:

- Asked for a friendly amendment in support of increasing community center hours.

O'Kane:

- Suggested leaving the topics in the letter open ended.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Suggested targeting specifics and looks to staff for recommendations.

Quint:

- Suggested a consensus on the specifics for the letter.

Thomas:

- Would like to see maintenance as a priority.

Additional process information was discussed in addition to a review of what was already discussed.

Flores:

- Asked to add a friendly amendment for the consideration of additional Park Rangers

**Motion to Accept the Report and Write a Letter of Support for Additional Park Maintenance Staff, Expanding Community Center Hours and Additional Park Rangers:**

**M: Fong**

**S: Thomas**

( 10 - 0 )

Commissioner Nguyen absent

**B. Communications Hill Master Plan;** David McCormic, Associate Landscape Designer, introduced Gary Laymon, The Guzzardo Partnership, and they highlighted the following:

- Parks Facilities Plan
  - Proposed William Lewis Manly Park
  - Hillsdale Fitness Park (Staircase)
  - Phase I Trail Improvements
- Project Overview

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Levy:

- Commended staff for the effort on the project. He suggested a straight staircase, suggesting the proposed would break cadence. Gary shared with the Commission that inquiries were made with users of the existing staircase to help design the new one.

Flores:

- Inquired about parking, and Gary referenced 50 on-street parking spaces.

Sveinsson:

- Shared the downside to decomposed granite and suggested using a more durable product, as well as exploring a more durable picnic table.
- Inquired about trails, including a trail over to Caltrain. David informed the Commission that the area in question is in the Industrial area of the development and connectivity is under consideration for a later phase. Gary spoke about a path where one could walk their bike down the hill.
- Again inquired about decomposed granite and Gary explained the areas being considered would be 2% or less and explained additional considerations.
- Suggested water runoff will be an issue, shedding water from the asphalt to decomposed granite. Garry said he would consider the feedback.

Vice Chair Fong:

- Inquired about parkland credits referenced in the memo and David informed the Commission the developer is building more than required in the first phase of the project, which is being calculated into the next phase.

Chair Jimenez:

- Inquired about drought considerations in new development plans. David suggested future developments will include additional landscaping considerations that better align with drought requirements, as they are further defined.

Levy:

- Requested a friendly amendment to consider extending the (stair) trail to Hillsdale.

**Motion to Accept the Master Plan, incorporating the Commissions Suggestions, Consider Extending the Trail and Recommend City Council Approval:**

**M: Flores**

**S: Quint**

( 10 - 0 )

Commissioner Nguyen absent

C. **Kelley Park Master Plan Update;** Yu-Wen Huang, Structure Landscape Designer II, highlighted the following:

- Overview of the 172 acre park
- History of Kelley Park and associated Master Plan
- New branding plan to tie the three main sections together and wayfinding throughout the park
- Design suggestions for the old Kelley House area, Orchard area and under-used areas
- Scope of work and the associated schedule
- Formation of an advisory committee

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

Quint:

- Inquired about a downtown reference and Yu-Wen stated it was for a

point of reference, near downtown.

Thomas:

- Suggested removing the downtown reference

Flores:

- Inquired about trail connectivity. Yu-Wen referenced Coyote Creek Trail and connectivity consideration during the master plan process

Sveinsson:

- Added I280 separates Kelley Park from downtown.

Levy:

- Inquired about a steering committee and if a Commissioner would be appointed to the committee. Yu-Wen addressed the intention of an advisory committee and staff is asking for a Commissioner appointment.

Chair Jimenez:

- Inquired about inclusion in the downtown core and Steve confirmed Kelley Park is not typically referenced.
- Asked how much of the prior master plan was implemented and why certain features were not included. Yu-Wen mentioned a 5 acre neighborhood park was not included, although the Vietnamese Heritage Garden was added. Steve provided several examples of features and why they weren't incorporated due to changes in processes and regulations.
- Inquired about the Kelley House. Steve provided information regarding the Kelley House insurance settlement and future plans.

Chair Jimenez opened the item for public comment:

- Cindy Newberry inquired about a public input process and spoke to non-profit involvement. Yu-Wen informed the Commission that Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, Japanese Friendship Garden and History San Jose will not be modified with the new master plan process, only references to tying the parks together through signage, for example.
- Heather Learner informed the Commission about discussions to include Kelley Park in downtown mapping and highlighted specifics about Kelley Park. She also expressed concern about the process, maintenance, rangers and parking fees.
- Steve informed the Commission about an upcoming event, Cycloviva, an open street event that will include Kelley Park as part of downtown.

Chair Jimenez polled the Commission for members interested in participating in the advisory committee. Commissioner Quint and Vice Chair Fong expressed interest.

**Motion to Accept the Report and Recommend Commissioner Quint and Vice Chair Fong Serve as Committee Members:**

**M: Levy**

**S: Flores**

**( 10 - 0 )**

Commissioner Nguyen absent

**D. Work Plan Update.**

Steve Hammack introduced the item and the following was discussed:

- Drought work group in May or June (possible update on consent)
- Potentially move BEST Funding and Programs
- Mollie Tobias provide adopt a park information by council district

**Motion to Accept the Work Plan as Amended:**

**M: Balajadia S: O’Kane**

**( 10 - 0 )** Commissioner Nguyen absent

**VII. Adjournment**

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Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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For questions, please contact Teresa Meyer-Calvert at (408) 793-4186.

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